

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service on the Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**Ascension of the Lord**

*May 16, 2021*

Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship (Psalm 47)

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

<sup>2</sup>**For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.**

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

<sup>6</sup>**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup>For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

<sup>8</sup>**God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.**

<sup>9</sup>The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

**Let us worship God!**

Prayer of the Day

**We thank you, almighty God,  
for the life of Jesus among us,  
and that he reigns in power for us.  
Strengthen our hope  
and bless the work of our hands,  
that we may live as his body in this world.  
In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.**

Opening Hymn #268: Crown Him with Many Crowns

Call to Confession

God-lovers, let us repent of those things  
that have drawn us away from God and our neighbors,  
that we may receive the joy of forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

**God, lover of humankind, you have asked us to proclaim your name to all people. We confess that we have held back from doing that, shy and self-conscious. Forgive us, we pray, and empower us in Jesus' name.** (pause for a time of silent personal confession...) Let all God's children say, **Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

The promise of our faith is that  
we are already forgiven and,  
in Christ's name, given the power  
to rise up and subdue  
all that separates us from God and each other.  
Receive the Holy Spirit and be  
empowered to be witnesses  
of God's resurrection power  
in Jesus Christ.

## Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #582: *Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

## Prayers of Intercession and Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the whole world and everything in it,  
for there is much need and want,  
and we, the church, have been called to be  
Christ's body in our world today.

**May we be Christ's body,  
the fullness of him who fills all in all.**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom  
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our  
daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

## Special Music

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel Lesson: Acts 1:1-11

Sermon:

Affirmation of Faith (from the Confession of 1967, 9.26)

**Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that  
God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond  
death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.**

Closing Hymn #260: *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

Benediction

Postlude

Fellowship

Sunday School

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music performed by Lorie Francis and Jeff Sandquist. Worship led by Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley. Portions of the service drawn from the PC(USA) Book of Common Worship, used by permission.*